

The Office Action requires an election of species among those species identified by the Examiner as follows:

Species I, illustrated by Fig. 1;

Species II, illustrated by Fig. 15; and

Species III, illustrated by Fig. 16.

It is believed the Examiner intended to identify Species II is being illustrated by Fig. 5; and the following election is based upon this understanding.

Applicants note the claims read on Figs. 1, 5 and 16 as follows;

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-16 and 18-19 read on Fig. 1.

Claims 1-19 read on Fig. 5.

Claims 1-16 and 18-19 read on Fig. 16.

From the foregoing, it is seen that claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-16 and 18-19 are generic because they read on all of the drawing figures enumerated by the Examiner.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Species I (Fig. 1), on which claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-16 and 18-19 read.

Since claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-16 and 18-19 are generic, if any of these generic claims eventually is allowed, it is recognized that the instant requirement for an election of species will be withdrawn; and all claims which include the limitations of the generic claims, irrespective of the particular species on which those claims read, likewise will be allowed.

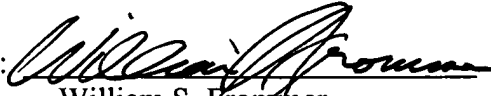
Applicants reserve their right to file one or more divisional applications, if necessary, to proceed with the examination of the non-elected claims.

PATENT
450100-05081

An early examination on the merits of the claims of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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